

## FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Field Naturalists' Club was held in the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 8th May. Mr. C. Frost (one of the vice-presidents) occupied the chair, and there was an attendance of about fifty members and friends.

## REPORTS OF EXCURSIONS.

Reports of recent excursions to Keilor (8th April) and Oakleigh (22nd April) were received from Mr. C. G. W. Officer, B.Sc. (see page 21), and Mr. H. P. C. Ashworth, who acted as leaders on those occasions. The latter reported good weather but moderate attendance, and owing to time of year specimens of interest were scarce. Among plants, *Styphelia scoparia* and *S. humifusa* were obtained in flower, also the orchid *Eriochilus autumnalis*, the tubers of which seemed to have been able to withstand the summer fires. The curious ferns *Schizæa fistulosa* and *S. dichotoma* were found. Among birds, *Ephthianura albifrons*, *Petræca phœnicea*, also imported Goldfinches and Thrushes, were noted.

## MEETING FOR PRACTICAL WORK.

The hon. secretary reported a good attendance at the meeting for practical work held on Monday evening, 24th April, when Mr. Frank L. Baker dwelt at some length upon "Photo-Micrography." When it is stated that Mr. Baker is an enthusiast in this subject it will readily be understood that the advantages of this means of presenting the beauties and intricacies of structure in natural history specimens were enthusiastically set forth. Then followed detailed descriptions of apparatus used and methods employed, reference being made to the best kinds of microscopic stands and accessories to use, together with definite directions as to focussing and amount of exposure required to produce satisfactory photographs of objects mounted under different conditions. Valuable hints and formulæ were also given for developing the plates after the image had been obtained. At the close of an exhaustive paper Mr. Baker photographed a slide of selected diatoms, thus practically demonstrating the methods set forth in the paper. Photographs of previous labours in this field were distributed to members as souvenirs of an interesting meeting.